

Subject: MEDIA REPORT ON WOODSIDE**Date:** Sun, 27 Oct 2002 04:50:22 -0800**From:** andrew ryder <romanistan@YAHOO.COM>**Reply-To:** 'Traveller-Net' Network <TRAVELLER-NET@JISCMAIL./**To:** TRAVELLER-NET@JISCMAIL.AC.UK

The following media report appeared today in the Beds
On Sunday newspaper

Gypsies given five day deadline for eviction

GYPsIES living illegally in Hatch have just five days
to move or face forcible eviction.

Residents of Woodside Caravan Park must have removed
all caravans and buildings from the site by the
eviction date of November 1.

The final eviction date comes after years of legal
wrangling between Mid Bedfordshire District Council
and around 29 families living on the site.

Despite the fact that many of the families own the
plots of land they live on, the council argues that
the site does not have planning permission for
permanent caravans, only the holiday type touring
caravans.

Residents have argued that they do live in touring
caravans and that they have nowhere else to go. Their
children also attend local schools.

The eviction notices were posted three weeks ago at
the site after the council won a court battle to take
enforcement action against the site.

Residents plan to hold an eleventh hour protest at a
meeting of the council in Ampthill on Thursday, the
day before their eviction, to ask the council to
re-consider.

If the Gypsies do not move, the council could use
their right under section 178 of the Town and Country
Planning Act, which would allow them to remove
caravans and structures by force.

The council caused controversy when its development
control (east) committee voted to invoke this right
under an order to exclude the press and public from
that part of the meeting.

Biggleswade councillor Alistair Costley was so
incensed that this was not being discussed in public
that he walked out of the meeting.

Picture shows kids at Hatch.